THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The Delimitation Commission has so far issued final Orders in respect of 25 States/Union territories. In purusance of section lOAof the Delimitation Act, 2002, the delimitation exercise in respect of the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland have been deferred *vide* four Orders dated 8th February, 2008. Further, section 10B of the said Act nullified the Delimitation Commission's Orders issues with respect to the State of Jharkhand. Thus, the delimitation exercise in respect of all the States except the State of Jammu and Kashmir has been completed. In pursuance of the second proviso to article 82 and the second proviso to clause (3) of article 170 of the Constitution, the Presidential Order has been issued on the 19th February, 2008 making delimitation Orders effective from immediate effect in all the 22 States/Union territories except in the States of Tripura and Meghalaya where the delimitation Order shall take effect on the 20th March, 2008 after the election to the Legislative Assemblies in these States are over on 19-03-2008.

Backlog of cases in courts

388. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

whether there is a huge backlog of court cases;

whether there is demand for establishing about 5,000 more courts to deal with the pending cases; and

if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) A total of 2,89,86,205 cases are reported pending in the District & Subordinate Courts and the various High Courts as on 30.9.2007 out of which 37,00,223 cases are pending in the various High Courts. In the Supreme Court 46,926 cases are reported pending as on 31.12.2007.

(b) and (c) With a view to making a substantial impact in reduction of arrears of pending cases in courts, the Government has introduced The Gram Nyayalays Bill, 2007' for establishing 5067 Gram Nyayalayas. This Bill will enable setting up of more trial courts in the country at the intermediate Pachayat level. These courts would provide justice in relatively ordinary civil and criminal cases to the rural population. The procedure to be followed by these courts has also been kept simple and flexible so that cases can be heard and disposed of within 90 days' period. It is also envisaged that these courts would be mobile and would hear the parties in their respective villages to achieve the goal of providing justice to the people at their doorsteps.

Pending cases in Supreme Court and High Courts

389. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases pending in Supreme Court and High Courts as on the 31st December, 2007; and

(b) the steps being taken to speed up the disposal of the long pending cases in the courts?[a]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) A total of 46,926 cases were pending in the Supreme Court on 31st December, 2007. A Statement indicating total number of cases reported pending, as per latest available information, in the High Courts is enclosed *(See* below).

(b) Government has taken several steps including deciding to increase the strength of Judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court, setting up of Fast Track Courts, setting up of special tribunals like the Central Administrative Tribunal, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, etc. for facilitating reduction of pendency of cases in the courts. Government also has under implementation a scheme of computerization of District and Subordinate Courts to facilitate speedier disposal of cases. Alternative modes of disposal including mediation, negotiation and arbitration have been encouraged. With a view to ensuring expeditious disposal of cases, the Civil Procedure Code has been amended, *inter-alia,* limiting the number of adjournments that can be given to a party and the concept of'Plea Bargaining' has been introduced through the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2005. Through the Gram Nyayalays Bill, it is proposed to bring justice to the doorsteps of the rural people by creating over 5000 courts in the intermediate Panchayat level thereby reducing pendency.

Statement

Details of cases reported pending in the High courts
(from 01-07-2007 *to* 30-09-2007)

S N	Name of High	Civil				Criminal Cases				Total Pendency of Civil and Criminal Cases at the end of 30-09-07
		Opening Balance as on 01-07-07	Institution from 01-07-07 30-09-07	Disposal from 01-07-07 30-09-07	Pendenc at the end of 30-09-07	Opening Balance as on 01-07-07	Institution from 01-07-30-09-07	from 01-07-30-09-07	Pendency at the end of 30-09-07	
1	Allahabad'	596500	40250	32300	604450	200429	27443	24096	203776	808226
2.	Andhra Pradesh	134347	12816	14220	132943	14365	2790	2561	14594	147537
3.	Bombay[2]	331079	32847	34948	328978	38395	6475	6439	38431	367409
4.	Calcutta	238721	17399	16288	239832	39261	6251	6026	39486	279318
5.	Chhattisgarh	50819	3616	2707	51728	22953	1618	1598	22973	74701
6.	Delhi	61798	6956	8891	59863	17668	3270	4127	16811	76674
7.	Gujarat	83275	11732	14020	80987	29946	5196	5490	29652	110639
S	Gauhati	51342	5960	5329	51973	7098	2278	2010	7366	59339
9	Himachal Pradesh	20110	4495	4272	20333	6447	660	659	6448	26781
1	Jammu & Kashmir	43334	5782	5492	43624	1819	548	617	1750	45374
II	Jharkhand	27132	2762	2185	27709	22173	4292	4898	21567	49276
1	Karnataka	87343	13427	12825	87945	15551	2505	1764	16292	104237
1	Kerala	94774	13895	17476	91193	25714	5077	6234	24557	115750
1	Madhya Pradesh	125489	18245	16341	127393	5918	10463	9297	60284	187677
1	Madras	389865	50253	49002	391116	33872	21654	20295	35231	426347
1	Orissa	206107	11162	12864	204405	20983	8023	5659	23347	227752.
1	Patna[1]	68787	7842	6281	70348	30652	18812	17647	31817	102165
1	Punjab and Haryana	204445	13868	9349	208874	44872	11486	9537	46821	255696
1	Rajasthan	159697	13546	12985	160258	52135	9056	8998	52193	212451
2	Sikkim	55	10	7	58	8	26	25	9	67
2	Uttaranchal	17185	3542	4630	16097	6995	997	1282	6710	22807
	TOTAL:	2992204	290405	282412	3000108	690454	148920	139259	700115	3700223

Above statement is compiled on the basis of figures received from the High Courts.

Pendency figures at the end of 30-06-2007 has been revised by the Allahabad High Court.

Pendency figures of criminal cases at the end of 30-06-2007 has been revised by the Bombay High Court.

Pendency figures at the end of 30-06-2007 has been revised by the Patna High Court.

89 Regular First Appeals transferred to the concerned District and Sessions Judges. Punjab